

Minutes of Helena Flats Land Use Advisory Committee
October 7, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Joe Ruffolo in the multipurpose room of the Helena Flats School. The Notice and Agenda were posted on the School entry door as well as on the FCP website.

Roll Call: Present: Joe Ruffolo, Jan Stephens, Pete Burkett, Linda Johnson, and Keith Valentine.

Excused Absence: Loren Vranish

Proxies: None

Minutes: The minutes of the June 3, 2010 meeting were read by Pete Burkett. Keith Valentine made a motion which received a second from Jan Stephens that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications: There was a discussion that an area landowner had sent a committee member copies of an article from the Hungry Horse news regarding an effort to repeal the growth policy and that effort failed. Additionally, there was a note sent regarding the pending appointment of a planning director which supported B. J. Grieve as the best candidate. Members commented that they thought he would be a good Director. Concern was expressed by some on the committee over the expected attacks on Mr. Grieve by the "usual suspects."

Committee Reports: Jan reported that there had been no Subdivision Activity in the HFNP area.

Public Comments: None

Old Business: Pete Burkett reported that the Flathead Biological Station was performing extensive tests on some wells in the Valley and that when the tests are completed a written document will be available to the public. He felt the Committee would be interested in getting a copy for the group the use. The testing will be to the same degree as the tests done in the Helena Valley several years ago and will even detect pharmaceuticals in the aquifer, if they exist.

New Business: Joe Ruffolo discussed the recent mailing of flood plain letters to residents within the Helena Flats Neighborhood Plan Area and how the costs of flood insurance are changing and increasing. He informed the committee that almost anyone with a mortgage on their property that is newly designated to be in the flood plain can be required to obtain flood insurance, which could be very costly. He encouraged everyone to be aware of the potential notices to be sent out and to take action if or when a notice is received to avoid having a lender place an extraordinarily expensive policy on the property. He let everyone know there is a website: floodsmart.gov that will help people understand the flood insurance program and how it will affect them.

Joe Ruffolo also handed out a guide for each of the committee members to use when setting up their email addresses on the HFLUAC website. Each person's email address is their first name . last name @ hfluac.info. Members were asked to create their emails and use the site starting immediately.

Joe reminded committee members that the next regularly scheduled meeting is on February 3, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Pete Burkett, Secretary